expenditure, to set up joint ventures, to enter into strategic and technological alliances, to formulate and implement the schemes of human resources management, etc. The Navratna PSUs have been granted greater financial and operational autonomy compared to the Mini-Ratnas.

Estimates of gold deposits in the country

563. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of the gold deposits in our country;

(b) the production of the gold per year in our country; and

(c) steps being taken to exploit our gold deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The recoverable reserves of gold in the country as per the National Minerals Inventory as on 1.4.1995 is estimated at 17.79 million tonnes containing 67.86 tonnes of gold metal.

(b) The average annual production of gold in the country is about 2400 Kgs.

(c) National Mineral Policy, 1993 encourages induction of foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals including gold. Government have recently approved grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Leases for gold in favour of 26 applications in the States of Rajasthan & Karnataka.

Gold desposits in Nagpur District of Maharashtra

564. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that gold deposits have been found in Parsori West of District Nagpur in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to extract the gold; if so, by when the work is likely to start; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDERA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has located a small gold deposits in "Parsori West" Block in Nagpur District. A total of 1.01 million tonnes of gold ore containing 1.69 tonnes of gold metal has been estimated upto a depth of 125 M.

(c) and (d) Any exploration/exploitation agency is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting prospecting licence/mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made there-under and in the light of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India.

रायपुर देवभाग क्षेत्र में हीरों का खनन

565. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के रायपुर जिले में स्थित देवभाग क्षेत्र में हीरों के खनन के उद्देश्य हेतु राज्य सरकार द्वारा केन्द्रीय सरकार को मंजूरी के लिये भेजी गई एजेंसियों के नाम क्या-क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने राज्य सरकार के प्रस्ताव पर कोई निर्णय लिया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, यदि नहीं, तो निर्णय कब तक लिये जायेंगे; और

(ग) यदि यह काम किसी विदेशी एजेंसी को सौंपा जा रहा है तो वे शर्तें क्या हैं जिन पर यह काम उसे सौंपा जा रहा है और इसे सौंपने के क्या कारण हैं?

इस्पात मंत्री और खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, मध्य प्रदेश की राज्य सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश स्थित देवभाग क्षेत्र में हीरे का खनन पट्टा प्रदान करने के लिए किसी आवेदन की सिफारिश नहीं की है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।